

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: November 27, 2007

CALLED TO ORDER: 4:32 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 4:50 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Vernon Brown, Chair
Bob Cockrum
Ron Gibson
Monroe Gray, Jr.
Robert Lutz
Dane Mahern
William Oliver

Absent Members

Susie Day

PROPOSAL NO. 500, 2007 - transfers and appropriates \$150,000 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks General Fund) to pay utility bills
"Do Pass" Vote: 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 501, 2007 - approves an appropriation of \$9,992 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Non-Lapsing Federal Grants Fund) to support planting of trees and other plant materials at 5200 North Fall Creek Parkway East Drive, funded by a federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant
"Do Pass" Vote: 7-0

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Parks and Recreation Committee of the City-County Council met on Tuesday, November 27, 2007. Chair Vernon Brown called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. with the following members present: Bob Cockrum, Monroe Gray, Jr., Robert Lutz, Dane Mahern, and William "Duke" Oliver. Ron Gibson arrived shortly thereafter. Absent was Susie Day.

PROPOSAL NO. 500, 2007 - transfers and appropriates \$150,000 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks General Fund) to pay utility bills

Joseph Wynns, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), stated that it is customary when the year comes to an end for DPR to move funding around to cover certain bills. He said that this proposal is not asking for additional funds, only requesting to move funds from different Characters to cover utility obligations.

Wayne Simpson, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), stated that the \$150,000 is from the existing 2007 budget and is simply a matter of moving funds from Characters 01 and 02 to Character 03 to cover utility bills. He said that during the budget process, it was discovered that DPR was going to be running short and would have to come back to the committee to request a transfer. Mr. Simpson stated that between the expansions and the utility rate increases, DPR was hit with a shortfall. Mr. Wynns stated that DPR has a very aggressive energy conservation program that is being put into place regarding temperatures for setting the thermostats. He said that there were a lot of roof improvements this year due to the hail storm and that will help with conserving energy. He said that DPR has to figure out how to conserve internally to keep utility costs down.

Councillor Gray asked if during the new construction, DPR considered any leads, guidelines or greenhouses to make this more economically feasible. Mr. Wynns answered in the affirmative, stating that the Earth Discovery Center has a GEO thermal system where water is actually being pumped in from the reservoir to heat and cool the Discovery Center.

{Clerk's Note: Councillor Gibson arrived at 4:35 p.m.}

Jeff Seidenstein, Budget Manager, Office of Finance and Management (OFM), stated that when OFM learns that an agency is purposing a transfer, OFM immediately reserves those funds in the budget that they are giving up, so that when the time comes to process it, the appropriations are still there.

Chair Brown asked if these funds were going into Character 03. Mr. Simpson answered in the affirmative. Chair Brown asked Mr. Simpson to explain Character 03 for the listening audience. Mr. Simpson stated that Character 03 is for utilities and contracts that are paid out. Mr. Wynns stated that some specific services in Character 03 are the

mowing and tree service contracts, as well as any contracts to repair HVAC systems and any other service work.

Chair Brown asked if there are any staff members at the committee meeting who deal with the utility bills and energy conservation. Mr. Wynns answered in the affirmative and introduced Ron Banks who is in charge of facility maintenance. Mr. Banks stated that Mr. Wynns covered all in his presentation.

Councillor Cockrum moved, seconded by Councillor Mahern, to send Proposal No. 500, 2007 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 501, 2007 - approves an appropriation of \$9,992 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Non-Lapsing Federal Grants Fund) to support planting of trees and other plant materials at 5200 North Fall Creek Parkway East Drive, funded by a federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant

Mr. Wynns introduced Don Miller, manager of Land Stewardship for DPR, to discuss the proposal. Mr. Miller stated that this grant is for 350 native trees and shrubs in the flood plan and other materials at the 5200 block of Fall Creek Parkway. Councillor Cockrum asked if any of these trees or shrubs will be planted in the right-of-way. Mr. Miller answered in the negative. Chair Brown asked if the trees are going inside by the trail where some of the trees were washed away when Fall Creek floods. Mr. Miller answered in the affirmative. Mr. Wynns stated that the area that will see planting is Emerson Way on the North side coming all the way back to the Nazarene Baptist Church.

Councillor Oliver asked what proximity the trees will be to the retention pond. Mr. Wynns said if members take Emerson Way and go back south to 46th Street around the curve to the left, they will see some of the planting.

Councillor Cockrum moved, seconded by Councillor Gibson, to send Proposal No. 501, 2007 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

New Business

Mr. Wynns stated that Parks and Recreation Agencies are getting ready to go through re-accreditation. He said that every five years, DPR is accredited by the National Parks and Recreation Association, and the team is coming in this week to spend four days with DPR to see if they are eligible to become re-accredited. He said that every member on the committee has received an invitation to a reception honoring the Commission for Accreditation, so the members can have an opportunity to meet some of the team members.

Councillor Oliver asked what some of the standards of Accreditation are. Mr. Wynns stated that there are over 150 standards that have to be met. He said that there are 11 chapters to be prepared and sent off to the National Parks and Recreation Organization. Then the accreditation team members come into the City and go through the entire organization. He said the agency has to meet 80% of the standards, and he is comfortable that DPR will be re-accredited. Councillor Oliver asked if this process enhances DPR's ability to attract funds. Mr. Wynns answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Gibson asked that everyone keep Congresswoman Julia Carson in their prayers.

Chair Brown thanked Mr. Wynns and his staff for all of the wonderful work that they have done.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Parks and Recreation Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vernon Brown, Chair
Parks and Recreation Committee

VB/law